IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following new claims:

--53. (new) A method for treating an autoimmune disease in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an interferon antagonist so as to thereby treat the autoimmune disease.--

--54. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist comprises TNF, a TNF agonist, or a TNF receptor agonist.--

--55. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of: acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), ankylosing spondylitis, arthritis, aplastic anemia, Behcet's disease, diabetes, graft-versus-host disease, Graves' disease, hemolytic anemia, hypogammaglobulinemia, hyper IgE syndrome, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura (ITP), multiple sclerosis (MS), Myasthenia gravis, psoriasis, lupus and any combination thereof.--

--56. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or drug-induced lupus or a combination thereof.--

--57. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises diabetes mellitus, Type I diabetes, Type II diabetes, juvenile on-set diabetes or any combination thereof. --

--58. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis or any combination thereof. --

--59. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises SLE.--

--60. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the effective amount of the interferon

antagonist comprises from about 1 to about 10 fold molar excess of interferon.--

--61. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist reduces binding of a type I interferon to its receptor.--

--62. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist reduces interferon-dependent signal transduction.--

--63. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist reduces interferon serum levels.--

--64. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist reduces interferon secretion from cells as measured by an interferon receptor binding assay.--

--65. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist reduces bioavailability of interferon in serum as measured by an interferon receptor binding assay.--

--66. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist reduces bioavailability of interferon in serum as measured by a monocyte differentiation assay.--

--67. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist reduces development of cells which produce type I interferon in the subject as measured by a monocyte differentiation assay.--

--68. (new) The method of claim 53, wherein the interferon antagonist comprises a soluble IFN-α receptor.--

--69. (new) A method for treating an autoimmune disease in a subject comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of a Flt3L antagonist that reduces monocyte differentiation into dendritic cells, thereby treating an autoimmune disease, wherein the Flt3L antagonist is selected from the group consisting of: an antibody which specifically binds Flt3L, an organic molecule, an antigen-binding fragment of an antibody, a nucleic acid and any combination thereof.--

--70. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the Flt3L antagonist reduces

hematopoietic stem cell differentiation into type 1 interferon producing cells.--

--71. (new) The method of claim 70, wherein the type I interferon producing cells comprise plasmacytoid dendritic cells.--

--72. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), ankylosing spondylitis, arthritis, aplastic anemia, Behcet's disease, diabetes, graft-versus-host disease, Graves' disease, hemolytic anemia, hypogammaglobulinemia, hyper IgE syndrome, idiopathic thrombocytopenia purpura (ITP), multiple sclerosis (MS), Myasthenia gravis, psoriasis, lupus and any combination thereof.--

--73. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) or drug-induced lupus or a combination thereof.--

--74. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises diabetes mellitus, Type I diabetes, Type II diabetes, juvenile on-set diabetes or any combination thereof. --

--75. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis or any combination thereof. --

--76. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the autoimmune disease comprises SLE.--

--77. (new) The method of claim 69, wherein the effective amount of the Flt3L antagonist comprises from about 1 to about 10 fold molar excess of Flt3L or Flt3L receptor.--